

**People Below Poverty Line**

3386. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:  
Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for identifying people living below poverty line and the total number of such people whose income is even below the criteria prescribed for the people below poverty line;

(b) whether 75 per cent tribals of the country are living below poverty line and if so, the steps being taken for improving their standard of living; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The criteria used for assessing the people below the poverty line are based on the recommendation of Task Force on "Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand" which submitted its report in 1979. According to this report, poverty line

is defined as the per capita monthly expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices, corresponding to the per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. The poverty line is updated using the implicit CSO private consumption deflator as proxy for price rise in the consumption basket of the persons near the poverty line. The updated poverty lines and the estimates of people whose consumption expenditures are below the criteria of the poverty line during the years 1983-84 and 1987-88 are presented in the Table annexed.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. The percentage of Scheduled Tribes (S.T. s) population of the country living below poverty line is well below 75 per cent.

To improve the socio-economic condition of STs, Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) is being implemented. TSP lays emphasis on providing a package of services to individual beneficiaries to meet their specific needs, raise their levels of living and give them income generating schemes to improve their quality of life.

## STATEMENT

Table referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok-Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3386 for answer on 11th December, 1991

	RURAL		URBAN	
	1983-84	1987-88	1983-84	1987-88
(1)				
Poverty Line (Rupees)	101.80	131.80	117.50	152.13
People below Poverty Line (Lakhs)	2215	1960	495	417

Note: (1) Monthly per capita consumption expenditure at current prices.